

Michaud Announces Support for First 100 Hour Agenda

Friday, November 21 2008

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"I am pleased that the new leadership in the House of Representatives has laid out such an ambitious agenda and I am proud to be a cosponsor of it," said Michaud. "Raising the minimum wage, expanding stem cell research, and negotiating lower prices for prescription drugs are all steps that are long overdue. Along with the new rules package that we will pass this week to end the corruption we have seen in Washington, it is my hope that this full agenda will show the American people that the Congress will be finally be working on their behalf again."

Congressman Michaud is a cosponsor of each piece of the first 100 hours agenda, which is scheduled to proceed as follows:

Tuesday, January 9
- Implement the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

This bill will make our nation safer by implementing the 9/11 Commission's remaining recommendations after the enactment of the Intelligence Reform bill in 2004. The bill also goes beyond the Commission's recommendations by requiring, within five years, 100% scanning of U.S.-bound shipping containers.

Wednesday, January 10
- Increase the Minimum Wage

This bill will help up to 13 million Americans and their families by increasing the minimum wage. The measure would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years.

Thursday, January 11
- Expand Stem Cell Research

This is the bipartisan DeGette-Castle bill to promote life-saving stem cell research that the President vetoed in July. It is expected that both the House and Senate will pass the DeGette-Castle bill again early this year and the bill's supporters are hoping that the President this time will sign this vital legislation into law.

Friday, January 12
- Allow Negotiation for Lower
Prescription Drug Costs

This bill will help cut the cost of health care and improve access to medicines by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies for lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries. The current Medicare Rx Drug law prohibits HHS from conducting such cost-saving negotiations.

Wednesday, January 17
- Cut Interest Rates on Student Loans

This bill will take the first step in making college more affordable and accessible by cutting the interest rates in half on certain subsidized student loans over the next five years.

Thursday, January 18
- End Subsidies for Big Oil and Invest
in Renewable Energy

This bill will increase investment in renewable energy and begin the path to energy independence. It will repeal billions of dollars in subsidies given to big oil at a time of record profits to fund clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Specifically, the measure would ensure that oil companies that were awarded 1998 and 1999 leases for drilling pay their fair share in royalties. The measure would also close loopholes and end giveaways in the tax code for Big Oil. Finally, the bill would create a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve to invest in clean, renewable energy resources; promoting new emerging technologies, increasing the development and deployment of renewable sources, developing greater energy efficiency and improving energy conservation.

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